

STRANGER THINGS

#308

THE BATTLE OF STARCOURT

Terror reigns in the food court when the Mind Flayer comes to collect. But down below, in the dark, the future of the world is at stake.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Todd's car tires screech as it rounds a bend, driving quickly. Joyce drives while Murray sits in the passenger seat. Hopper sits in the back. Radio static crackles from the Russian agent's walkie talkie.

JOYCE: Still nothing?

MURRAY: Nothing.

HOPPER: Food court? You sure they said food court?

Murray turns around to look at Hopper.

MURRAY: I'm sorry, have my translation skills been letting you down?

Hopper stares at him but says nothing.

MURRAY (CONT'D): We don't know it's your kids.

JOYCE: Yes, we do.

Joyce turns around another bend, tires screeching.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Eleven screams in pain, sobbing. There's a sizzling noise as the thing in her leg moves. Mike, Max, Erica, Jonathan, Nancy, Will, Lucas, and Dustin kneel down around her. Steve and Robin stand nearby. Everyone looks concerned.

ERICA: What is that?

MIKE: There's something in there.

Eleven yells in pain.

ELEVEN: No!

DUSTIN: Jesus Christ.

JONATHAN: Keep her talking. Keep her awake, okay?

Jonathan gets up and runs away from the group.

DUSTIN (O.S.): Jesus Christ.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Jonathan makes a beeline for Teppanyaki Japanese, jumping over the counter with a grunt. He opens a draw and finds a bunch of chopsticks. He opens another drawer and rummages in it until he finds a wooden spoon, placing it on the counter before grabbing a pair of gloves from the box on the counter. He opens another drawer and pulls out a knife, before he walks over to the stove and turns it on, holding the knife above the flame.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Eleven looks as though she might pass out.

MIKE: Hey, hey, hey. Stay awake, stay awake. Let's get her on this side, get her on this side.

Steve moves to help Mike pull Eleven to sit up, leaning against his chest. Dustin grabs Eleven's hand.

STEVE: Easy, easy, easy, easy.

ROBIN: It's, uh...you know, it's not actually that bad. There was a...the goalie on my soccer team, Beth Wildfire, this other girl slid into her leg...

Everyone looks at Robin with a 'how is this helping?' expression.

ROBIN (CONT'D): ...And like, the whole bone came out of her knee, six inches or something, it was insane.

STEVE: Robin.

ROBIN: Yeah?

STEVE: You're not helping.

ROBIN: I'm sorry.

Jonathan runs back to the group. Eleven whimpers.

JONATHAN: Okay. All right, El? This is gonna hurt like hell, okay?

Eleven sobs.

ELEVEN: Okay.

JONATHAN: Need you to stay real still.

Jonathan pulls the gloves on.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Here, you're gonna want to bite down on this, okay?

Jonathan holds the wooden spoon out to Mike.

DUSTIN: Jesus Christ.

Eleven opens her mouth as Mike puts the wooden spoon between her teeth, biting down on it. She whimpers. Jonathan slowly lowers the knife towards Eleven's leg. The thing under the skin moves around.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Holy shit. Holy shit.

Jonathan looks around at the group, unsure.

MIKE: Do it.

JONATHAN: Okay.

Jonathan takes a few short breaths before beginning to cut into Eleven's leg. Eleven screams in pain, biting down hard on the wooden spoon and gripping Dustin's hands tightly. Blood oozes from the cut, accompanied by pus. It's not a pretty sight. Nancy exclaims in disgust. Jonathan has to look away for a moment.

DUSTIN: Oh, shit.

Jonathan drops the knife to the side. Eleven screams in pain, sobbing. Jonathan squeezes his eyes shut and takes a few short breaths before he sticks his fingers into the cut. Eleven screams in pain.

Everyone exclaims in disgust. Eleven whimpers as Jonathan feels around for the thing in her leg. She screams, biting down hard.

NANCY: Jonathan!

JONATHAN: Stop talking!

Jonathan moves his fingers again, but the thing evades him. Eleven screams.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Goddamn it!

ELEVEN: No!

Eleven spits the wooden spoon out.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Stop it!

Jonathan doesn't seem to hear her.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Stop!

Nancy taps Jonathan's shoulder, making him realise what Eleven is saying.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Stop!

Jonathan pulls his fingers out, unsure. Eleven grunts as she attempts to sit up.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): (whimpers) I can do it.

Eleven pushes herself up. Mike moves so that he can support her sitting up fully.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I can do it.

The group looks between Eleven and each other, nervous. Eleven reaches her hand out, using her powers to try and get the thing out. She wails in pain.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): God!

There's an ugly squelching sound.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): God!

The thing slowly gets closer to the surface of the skin, chittering. Eleven wails in pain. She screams as the thing pokes out of the skin, clearly wanting to go back in. The lights flicker suddenly, and the glass in the Gap window next to them shatters, making the group jump back slightly. Max yelps. Eleven continues to scream as the thing is pulled further out of the skin. It shrieks as she pulls it out. Eleven screams as she uses her powers to lift the thing into the air, before she throws it far away with a grunt. The group looks as it goes. The thing chitters as it tries to crawl away, but its attempt is thwarted when Hopper brings his boot down on it. The group stare at Hopper, Joyce, and Murray in a mix of awe and confusion. Eleven pants as she stares at Hopper.

Cut to black.

MAIN TITLES.

CHAPTER EIGHT: THE BATTLE OF STARCOURT.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The camera pans down from the Starcourt food court sign.

MIKE (O.S.): The Mind Flayer, it built this monster in Hawkins, to stop El, to kill her and pave a way into our world.

The camera lands on the group, resting in a bird's eye view. Robin and Will sit on the fountain, while Lucas and Erica lean against it. Hopper, Eleven, and Joyce sit on a bench, with Eleven leaning against Hopper while drinking from a cup. Dustin, Jonathan, Nancy, Mike, Steve, and Max stand between the fountain and the bench.

NANCY: And it almost did. That was just one tiny piece of it.

HOPPER: How big is this thing?

JONATHAN: It's big. Thirty feet, at least.

LUCAS: Yeah.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

The camera levels with the group.

LUCAS (CONT'D): It sorta destroyed your cabin.

Hopper sighs lightly.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Sorry.

STEVE: Okay, so, just to be clear, this...this big fleshy spider thing that hurt El, it's some kind of gigantic...weapon?

NANCY: Yes.

STEVE: But instead of, like, screws and metal, the Mind Flayer made its weapon...with melted people.

NANCY: Yes, exactly.

STEVE: Yeah, okay. I...yeah, I'm just making sure.

JOYCE: Are we sure this thing is still out there, still alive?

MAX: El beat the shit out of it, but, yeah, it's still alive.

WILL: But if we close the Gate again...

MAX: We cut the brain off from the body.

LUCAS: And kill it. Theoretically.

MURRAY (O.S.): Yoo-hoo!

The group turns to see Murray walking quickly towards them. He waves Alexei's papers in the air, seemingly having gotten them from the car.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Yoo-hoo!

Murray waves the papers around.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The group crowds the seating area. Murray slaps Alexei's papers down on a table.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Okay, this is what Alexei call 'the Hub'. Now, the Hub takes us to the vault room.

HOPPER: Okay, where's the Gate?

MURRAY: Right here. I don't know the scale on this, but I think it's fairly close to the vault room, maybe fifty feet or so.

Erica walks up to the table.

ERICA: More like 500.

Murray looks at Erica in shock.

ERICA (CONT'D): What, you're just gonna waltz in there like it's commie Disneyland or something?

MURRAY: I'm sorry, who are you?

ERICA: Erica Sinclair. Who are you?

MURRAY: Murray...Bauman.

ERICA: Listen, Mr. Bunman, I'm not trying to tell you how to do things, but I've been down in that shithole for 24 hours. And with all due respect, you do what this man tells you, you're all gonna die.

Hopper furrows his brows.

MURRAY: I'm sorry, why is this four-year-old speaking to me?

ERICA: Um, I'm ten, you bald bastard!

LUCAS: Erica!

ERICA: Just the facts!

DUSTIN: She's right. You're all gonna die, but you don't have to.

Dustin up walks to the table.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Excuse me. Sorry, may I?

MURRAY: Please.

Dustin grabs the papers from Alexei and sits down, pulling out a pencil from his vest.

DUSTIN: Okay, see this room here? This is a storage facility.

Dustin circles the room.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): There's a hatch in here that feeds into their underground ventilation system.

Dustin draws a line from the room to another room.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): That will lead you to the base of the weapon. It's a bit of a maze down there, but between me and Erica, we can show you the way.

HOPPER: You can show us the way?

DUSTIN: Don't worry, you can do all the fighting and the dangerous hero shit, and we'll just be your...navigators.

Hopper gives a sarcastic nod that turns into a head shake.

HOPPER: No.

Dustin looks slightly shocked. Hopper shakes his head again.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Nope.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Hopper pulls the walkie talkie out of a Russian guard's belt and puts it on his chest. He grabs the Russian guard's gun and cocks it before reloading it. Everyone else wanders around, doing their own thing while waiting.

ERICA: Well, that settles it. He's gonna die. They're gonna die.

Erica walks to and stands behind Dustin, the two of them watching Hopper.

DUSTIN: Yep, most likely.

LUCAS: You guys survived.

Dustin and Erica turn around.

DUSTIN: Barely. We could've really used you guys down there.

MIKE: Could've used you up here, too.

LUCAS: Yeah, man. We missed you, dude.

WILL: Yeah. Big-time.

Dustin moves in to hug the boys, the four of them forming a semi-circle.

DUSTIN: I missed you guys, too. Big-time.

ERICA: Please don't cry, nerds.

LUCAS: Erica.

ERICA: Keep saying my name, see what happens.

HOPPER (O.S): Hey, heads up.

The group looks up to see Hopper walking towards them. He tosses a walkie talkie to Dustin.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You can navigate, just from someplace safe.

DUSTIN: It's not that simple.

ERICA: The signal won't reach.

DUSTIN: Not with this. You need something with a high enough frequency band to relay to the Russians' radio tower. But for that to work, you need someone who has both seen their comms room and has access to a super-powered handcrafted radio tower, one preferably already situated

at the highest point of Hawkins. Oh, wait. That's me. If you want us to navigate, you got us. But we need a head start.

Hopper annoyedly raises his eyebrows, half nodding.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): And a car.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Steve pushes the mall doors open and walks out, followed by Dustin, Erica, and Robin. They walk towards the car

STEVE: Oh, man, now this...

Steve tosses the keys up and catches them.

STEVE (CONT'D): This is what I'm talking about!

ROBIN: "Toddfather"?

STEVE: Oh, screw Todd! Steve's her daddy now.

ROBIN: Did you just talk about yourself in the third person?

Steve hops over the car door and into the driver's seat. The others open the doors to climb in, with Robin in the passenger seat and Dustin and Erica in the back.

INT. TODD'S CAR

ERICA: Did he just call himself daddy?

STEVE: All right, where are we going?

DUSTIN: Weathertop.

STEVE: Weather-what?

DUSTIN: Just drive.

STEVE: Okay. Jesus!

Steve turns the car on and reverses, before putting it into drive and speeding away from the mall, tires screeching.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Murray stands with Nancy and Jonathan, going through a ring of keys.

MURRAY: Bottom lock, second-to-top lock, third-to-top lock, lock.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Joyce stands with Will.

JOYCE: Listen to me, I need to end this, but I will be back before you know it, okay?

WILL: I don't know, Mum.

JOYCE: No, listen. You're gonna be safe there. It's...it's far away from all this. You just stick close with your brother and...and do whatever he says. No matter what. Okay?

WILL: I'm not worried about me, Mum, I'm worried about you.

JOYCE: Oh, honey, I'm gonna be fine.

Joyce pulls Will into a hug.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Okay? I'm gonna be fine.

Will winces from the tightness of Joyce's hug.

WILL: Okay, Mum. Okay, Mum. That's enough.

JOYCE: I'm gonna be fine.

WILL: Okay.

Joyce refuses to let go.

WILL (CONT'D): Mum, I can't breathe.

The camera moves away from Will and Joyce and lands on Eleven and Hopper as they sit on the fountain's edge. Hopper gently holds Eleven's hand, his thumb hooked under Sara's blue hairband on Eleven's wrist.

ELEVEN: My battery's low, but...

WILL (O.S.): You're suffocating me.

ELEVEN: It will recharge.

HOPPER: I know it will, kid. I know.

ELEVEN: I can fight.

HOPPER: Better than any of us.

Eleven looks away.

HOPPER (CONT'D): But right now, I need you safe. This thing is after you. It's not after me. Do you understand?

Eleven doesn't look at him.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Hey...

Hopper pushes hair out of Eleven's face. She turns her face towards him but doesn't look him in the eyes.

HOPPER (CONT'D): I need you to understand.

Eleven looks at Hopper's eyes. Her breathing is quicker than normal. She gives a small nod.

HOPPER (CONT'D): (quietly) Okay.

MIKE (O.S.): Hey.

Hopper and Eleven look up to see Mike, Max, and Lucas standing a short distance away.

MIKE (CONT'D): We should probably go.

Hopper sighs. Eleven wraps her arms around him. He returns the hug, smiling. When she pulls away, he nods. They smile at each other. Mike walks over and helps Eleven stand up, with Max taking her other arm. They walk away from Hopper.

HOPPER: Mike?

They stop and turn around. Hopper closes his eyes and takes a breath.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Be careful.

Mike nods and turns to run after the trio, with Lucas having taken Mike's spot to help Eleven walk. Nancy, Jonathan, and Will walk after them. Joyce joins Hopper, sighing. He looks up at her. She looks down at him.

JOYCE: What?

Hopper doesn't say anything, continuing to stare at Joyce. She looks at him, confused.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BACK CORRIDOR – NIGHT

Hopper, Joyce, and Murray walk along.

HOPPER: This is a two-man operation. Two!

JOYCE: Yeah, well, change of plans!

HOPPER: Change of plans?

JOYCE: Yeah. Will you explain it to him, please?

MURRAY: We have two options here, Jim. We can turn the machine off, or we can explode it.

HOPPER: Oh, yeah, says who?

MURRAY: Says the man who built it!

JOYCE: Yeah, and we wanna explode it!

MURRAY: Or else our heroic efforts will be for naught! This is a three-man operation, Jim, not two.

JOYCE: Yeah, three.

Hopper grumbles as he pushes a door open.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

The group walks towards the Wheeler car. Eleven grunts in pain as Mike and Max help her walk.

MAX: El, you're bleeding.

MIKE: Are you okay?

ELEVEN: Yeah.

MAX: Here.

MIKE: Okay.

Max leaves Eleven temporarily to open the boot but keeps her hand on Eleven's side.

MIKE (CONT'D): Here.

Eleven groans.

MIKE (CONT'D): Lay down.

Eleven whimpers. Nancy gets into the driver's seat. Jonathan has already gotten into the passenger seat, and Lucas and Will are in the backseat.

INT. WHEELER CAR

Nancy puts the key in the ignition and turns it. The engine sputters.

JONATHAN: What's wrong?

NANCY: I don't...

Nancy tries again. The engine sputters. She tries again but is met with the same result.

NANCY (CONT'D): I don't know.

Nancy tries again. The engine sputters.

NANCY (CONT'D): You can't be serious. Come on!

Nancy tries again. The engine sputters.

LUCAS: Didn't your mum just buy this car?

NANCY: Yes. I'm sure it's fine.

WILL: Did you leave the lights on?

NANCY: No.

LUCAS: Do we have gas?

NANCY: Yes!

Nancy tries the ignition again. The engine sputters.

NANCY (CONT'D): Come on!

JONATHAN: Whoa, whoa, whoa! Just stop, stop!

Jonathan grabs Nancy's arm. She stops turning the key and looks at him.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Pop the hood.

Jonathan opens the door and gets out.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Jonathan gets out of the car and walks to the front of it, opening the hood. Nancy gets out and joins him.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): What the hell?

NANCY: What?

JONATHAN: The ignition cable's gone.

The sound of a car engine roaring makes them turn to see a car at the end of the carpark. It revs its engine, flashing its headlights. Everyone stares at it, nervous.

INT. BILLY'S CAR

The engine revs. It's Billy. He grips the steering wheel as he revs the engine, staring at the group with anger.

INT. WHEELER CAR

Max, Will, and Lucas stare at Billy's car, with Max breathing heavily. Nancy suddenly appears at the window and bangs on it, making Will and Lucas jump.

NANCY: Back in the mall!

Nancy opens the door and they rush to get out.

NANCY (CONT'D): Back in the mall!

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Jonathan opens the boot. Mike helps Eleven out of the boot and Max rushes to help.

NANCY (CONT'D): Go! Go, go, go!

MIKE: Be careful!

NANCY: Go! Go!

JONATHAN: Hurry!

The group runs back to the mall.

NANCY and JONATHAN (IN UNISON): Go, go, go!

INT. BILLY'S CAR

He stares at the group as they run inside, anger still present on his face as he continues to rev the engine.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – ELEVATOR SHAFT

The elevator travels down.

MURRAY (O.S.): So then I yank those cables like I'm pulling weeds.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – ELEVATOR

Joyce and Murray stand around. Hopper sits on some boxes.

HOPPER: And that'll set off the alarm-

MURRAY: According to Alexei, may his soul rest in peace. Which should give you two an opening to retrieve the keys from the vault.

JOYCE: And then we just follow the map to the observation room, turn the key-

MURRAY: Kaboom, we blow this sucker sky-high.

JOYCE: Yeah. And then, once the rift is closed, we escape back through the vents.

MURRAY: Right under their commie noses.

JOYCE: Then home free.

HOPPER: Uh...

JOYCE: Oh, God, just because it wasn't your plan doesn't mean it was a bad plan.

HOPPER: I didn't say it was a bad plan.

JOYCE: You made a noise.

HOPPER: I did not make a noise.

JOYCE: You did too.

HOPPER: I did not make a noise.

JOYCE: I really think it's disrespectful...

HOPPER: What is up with you and noises?

MURRAY: Children! Children!

Hopper rises to his full height.

MURRAY (CONT'D): It is a good plan. A solid B, which is laudable, given the situation and time constraints. Dare I say, if it all goes right...

The elevator thuds to a stop.

MURRAY (CONT'D): ...they'll never even know we were here.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HALLWAY

The elevator door opens and a group of Russian guards turn around, immediately raising their guns upon seeing the trio inside. The group puts their hands up.

RUSSIAN GUARD: (in Russian) Stop right there!

MURRAY: (in Russian) Don't shoot! Don't shoot!

Murray holds the papers up.

MURRAY (CONT'D): (in Russian) Documents, important documents from the Lieutenant-Comrade! He called us, last minute. Pardon our sloppy appearance.

RUSSIAN GUARD: (in Russian) Lieutenant? What Lieutenant?

Murray's face falls.

MURRAY: (in Russian) Lieutenant...Molotov?

The guards look between each other, not convinced. Hopper pushes Murray aside and fires at the guards, striking them all down. Joyce screams and covers her ears. Hopper pants when he's done, the magazine empty.

HOPPER: Oh, shit.

Murray stares at the situation in disbelief.

MURRAY: Jim...

Hopper replaces the magazine.

MURRAY (CONT'D): This is crazy.

The trio slowly walks out of the elevator.

JOYCE: Oh, my God.

MURRAY: Jim, I...this...I had it under control.

Hopper kneels next to one of the guards.

HOPPER: Yeah, sure you did.

Hopper takes the guard's hat.

JOYCE: What are you doing?

Hopper puts the hat on.

HOPPER: I'm improvising.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Todd's car drives along.

INT. TODD'S CAR

STEVE: Jesus, how far is this place, man?

DUSTIN: Relax, we're almost there.

ROBIN: Suzie must be pretty special, huh? I mean, if you built this thing and lugged it all the way to the middle of nowhere just to talk to her?

DUSTIN: I mean, nobody's scientifically perfect, but Suzie's about as close to as any human could possibly be.

ERICA: She sound made-up to me. She sound made-up to you?

Steve avoids answering the question.

DUSTIN: Why are you hesitating, Steve?

STEVE: I'm...I'm...I'm not! I'm not! I think she sounds real. You know, totally, absolutely real.

DUSTIN: Left. Turn left.

STEVE: There's not a road here.

DUSTIN: Turn left now!

STEVE: Jesus! Hang on!

Steve turns the wheel and the car skids off the road, crashing through a fence as it drives on the grass. Everyone holds on tightly as the car struggles on the new terrain.

STEVE (CONT'D): Whoa! Henderson, where are we going?!

DUSTIN: Up!

STEVE: Whoa!

The car starts up the hill but starts to slow as they get higher.

STEVE (CONT'D): Oh, Jesus!

ROBIN: We're not gonna make it!

STEVE: Yes, we are. Come on, baby. Come on, baby!

The car's engine strains as it climbs, the car jolting. The car stops.

STEVE (CONT'D): Come on!

Steve smacks the steering wheel.

STEVE (CONT'D): Come on. Come on.

Steve pushes the accelerator to the floor, but the car is stuck.

STEVE (CONT'D): Come on!

ROBIN: Guess the Toddfather has its limitations.

Steve reluctantly lets go off the steering wheel and lets off the gas, panting. He turns the car off and the group gets out, starting the walk up the rest of the hill to reach Cerebro.

MIKE (ON CEREBRO): Scoops Troop, do you copy? Scoops Troop, do you copy? Scoops Troop, do you copy? Scoops Troop...

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Mike paces the lower floor near the fountain, Supercomm in hand.

MIKE (CONT'D): I repeat, do you copy? We're trapped in the mall and in need of emergency transportation.

In the seating area, Lucas practises his wrist rocket. Eleven stands nearby, leaning against a chair.

MIKE (CONT'D): Scoops Troop, do you copy? Billy has found us. He has disabled our car and we are trapped in the mall.

Jonathan paces the seating area. Nancy kneels by a Russian guard. Max and Will stand nearby, watching her.

MIKE (CONT'D): Repeat: Billy has disabled our car and we are trapped in the mall.

Nancy pulls the Russian guard's gun from its holster.

MIKE (CONT'D)(O.S.): Scoops Troop...

MAX: You're gonna kill him, aren't you?

NANCY: This is just a precaution, okay?

WILL: And not just against Billy. If he knows we're here, so does the Mind Flayer.

MIKE (O.S.): Scoops Troop, I repeat, we are in need of emergency transportation.

The trio turns to look at Mike as he paces the food court.

MIKE (CONT'D): Do you copy? Scoops Troop, do you copy?

Mike walks past the upturned prize car.

NANCY: No chance that thing'll drive, right?

MIKE (O.S.): Steve, do you copy?

JONATHAN: We don't need it to drive.

MIKE (O.S.): Dustin!

JONATHAN: We just need the ignition cable.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Lucas, Max, Mike, Nancy, and Jonathan all stand behind the counters of the fast-food restaurants the car is resting on, straining as they attempt to push it so it's standing on its wheels. Will and Eleven stand watching.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Push!

There's metal squealing. The group drops the car back down, tired. Glass shatters.

LUCAS: Shit!

ELEVEN: Let me try.

MIKE: El...

Eleven steps forward.

ELEVEN: I can do it.

Mike sighs.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The group stands back to give Eleven space. She holds her hand out, trying to use her powers to right the car. There's a metal squealing, but it doesn't budge. Her breathing quickens as she tries harder. She lets out a yell.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HALLWAY

A cart drives through the hallway as a woman speaks Russian on the PA. It nears a door where a Russian guard stands, smoking a cigarette.

INT. RUSSIAN CART

We see Hopper and Murray in the front, with Murray driving. They wear Russian soldier uniforms. Hopper stares forward. Murray smiles at the guard as he approaches.

RUSSIAN GUARD: (in Russian) Can I help?

MURRAY: (in Russian) Picking up.

RUSSIAN GUARD: (in Russian) Do I know you?

MURRAY: (in Russian) New arrivals. Landed last night.

Hopper looks at the guard and gives a small smile.

RUSSIAN GUARD: (in Russian) Say goodbye to sunlight.

MURRAY: (in Russian) Who needs sunlight when we have one another, comrade?

The Russian guard chuckles.

RUSSIAN GUARD: (in Russian) Indeed, comrade!

MURRAY: (in Russian) And a bottle of Stolichnaya.

Murray and the Russian guard laugh. Murray nudges Hopper to get him to laugh along, but he simply lets out a light chuckle. The Russian guard moves to press a button, the doors opening with a loud beep.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

Murray and the Russian guard continue laughing as the cart drives in, pulling around the corner and parking. There's a loud beeping as the door closes. Hopper stands watch by the closed door as Murray opens the back of the cart to let Joyce out. She wears a Russian soldier uniform that is too big for her.

JOYCE: Why are you talking so much?

MURRAY: He was nice.

Murray helps Joyce out of the cart.

JOYCE: He was nice?

MURRAY: He was a nice guard.

HOPPER: Yeah, I mean, we should probably invite him over after all this is done.

The trio walks up the steps to the higher floor.

JOYCE: Yeah, I can bake him a casserole.

HOPPER: Get a six-pack, share some laughs. You know, have some drinks.

Murray takes a deep breath as he bends down and lifts off the vent cover, sliding it to the side.

MURRAY: Ugh.

Murray takes his hat off and drops it beside him.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Anyone wanna trade jobs?

DUSTIN (ON WALKIE TALKIE): Bald Eagle, do you copy?

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Dustin and Erica sit down while Steve and Robin stay standing.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Bald Eagle, I repeat, this is Scoops Troop, do you copy?

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

MURRAY: Yes, I copy.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

The group chuckles in relief. Steve and Robin move to stand behind Dustin and Erica, their hands on their knees.

DUSTIN: Call sign?

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

Murray scoffs.

MURRAY: Bald Eagle.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Please repeat.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

MURRAY: Bald Eagle. This is Bald Eagle!

Joyce and Hopper share a look.

DUSTIN (ON WALKIE TALKIE): Copy that.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Good to hear your voice, Bald Eagle. What's your 20?

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

MURRAY: We reached the vent. I'll contact you when I need you. Until then, silence.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Roger that, Bald Eagle. This is Scoops Troop, going radio silent. 10-10, over.

Dustin lowers his hand. Steve taps him on the shoulder.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

MURRAY: I hate children.

Murray starts to climb into the vent, groaning. Hopper bends down next to it while Joyce rests her hands on her knees.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Remember, if anyone says anything, just-

JOYCE: Smile and nod.

Hopper sighs.

HOPPER: Good luck.

Murray ducks to a crouching position and starts crawling. Hopper stands up to grab the vent cover, putting it back into place.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Lucas, Max, Mike, Will, Nancy, and Jonathan all stand behind the counters of the fast-food restaurants the car is resting on, straining as they attempt to push it so it's standing on its wheels. This time, they use the thin ends metal bollards that surrounded the car as leverage.

JONATHAN: Push.

They manage to push it so it's standing on its side.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): All right, great. All right, now, all the way. Ready? Three, two, one...Push!

The group position the flat ends of the bollards against the car and push it, watching as it rights itself. They stand straight, panting.

MIKE: Told you. Physics.

Jonathan jumps down from the counter before helping Nancy down. Lucas jumps down before helping Max down. Mike and Will get down themselves. Jonathan and Nancy round the car to get to the hood but find it to be stuck when they try to open it. The others round the car to watch them.

NANCY: How do we get it open?

JONATHAN: Uh, there should be a latch. Check under the wheel.

Nancy rounds the car and sticks her head inside, looking.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): You see it?

NANCY: I don't know, hold on.

Max watches Eleven.

MAX: What's she doing?

Mike turns around, seeing Eleven rifling through a trash can. They look at each other.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Eleven pulls things out of the trash can, seemingly looking for something. She pulls out an empty can of new coke and exhales sharply, walking away. She places the can on a ledge around a pole, before placing her hands on the ledge on either side of it. She stares at it as she tries to use her powers on it.

Flashback to #103. A Hawkins Lab testing room. Eleven sits with an EEG on her head. A coke can sits in front of her. She focuses on it, straining.

Eleven stares at the coke can in front of her, straining. In the background, Mike and Max walk towards her.

Flashback to #103. A Hawkins Lab testing room. Eleven sits with an EEG on her head. A coke can sits in front of her. She focuses on it, straining. It crushes itself.

Eleven stares at the coke can in front of her, straining. In the background, Mike and Max walk towards her.

MIKE: (echoing) El.

Eleven breaks her concentration on the can, her breathing quickened. She looks concerned and slightly scared.

MIKE (CONT'D): Are you okay?

Eleven looks at them for a few moments before looking back at the can.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Jonathan lifts the hood of the and starts searching. Nancy joins him.

NANCY: Do you see it?

Jonathan: I don't know. It should be right here. Distributor, distributor...

The hairs on the back of Will's neck stand up, and he raises his hand to touch it. He turns away from Nancy and Jonathan, looking around. There's a distant rumbling sound. Max slowly turns to look up at the glass ceiling, seeing a shadow pass over it. The glass shakes with an accompanying loud footstep, and the shadow of a large foot can be seen stomping on the roof.

MAX: Mike.

Mike turns to look up at the ceiling. The glass starts to crack. A large foot is placed down, cracking the glass. The glass can slowly be heard cracking under the Spider Monster's weight. Jonathan pulls the ignition cable out of the car.

JONATHAN: Got it.

Mike looks away from the ceiling and towards the car.

MIKE: Nancy!

Jonathan and Nancy look in Mike's direction. Eleven looks up. The glass starts to buckle as the Spider Monster looks inside the mall, snarling. Mike grabs Eleven's arm as he and Max run past, the three of them running to hide.

MIKE (CONT'D): Come on!

The sound of glass cracking becomes louder. The Spider Monster stomps a foot down and the glass shatters, with it and the panelling falling to the ground. The Spider Monster falls to the ground and lands with a loud thud, snarling. It roars.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – ELEVATOR SHAFT

The elevator travels down.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HALLWAY

The door opens to reveal Grigori and the other Russian agents from the fair. They spot the soldiers from before, laying on the ground. Three of them have been stripped down to their boxers and undershirts, their uniforms stolen by Hopper, Joyce, and Murray. A few soldiers stand around them. Grigori and the Russian agents step out, looking at the unconscious soldiers on the ground.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER: (in Russian) We just found them like this.

GRIGORI: (in Russian) The Americans.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

Joyce stands at the base of the stairs. Hopper walks to stand beside the cart, taking his hat off.

HOPPER: It's taking too long.

JOYCE: It's fine.

HOPPER: No, it's not. It is not. She could've died back there. She almost did.

JOYCE: Well, she's safe now. She's on her way to Murray's. That thing won't find her, not before we kill it.

HOPPER: Hey. This isn't the way this is supposed to work, all right? You're supposed to say, 'Yes, I told you so. That's why we need to go back to the kids'.

JOYCE: Oh, yeah, and then you say something like...(mimicking Hopper) 'Yeah, well, it's really hard to listen to you when you make everything sound like it's the end of the goddamn world'.

Joyce makes a face. Hopper stares at her, leaning with his hand against the cart. He drops his arm and looks away.

HOPPER: You know...I think, despite everything, I mean, despite the arguing, I think we make a pretty good team.

Joyce clicks her tongue.

Joyce: Well, we made it this far, didn't we?

Joyce sits down on the stairs, sighing.

HOPPER: Yeah. We did. We did.

JOYCE: So, uh...did I get the job or what?

Hopper makes a face.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Ah, come on. Detective Byers. It has a ring, doesn't it?

Hopper walks over and leans his arm against the stair's railing.

HOPPER: It's kinda hard to serve in a town where you don't live, Detective.

Joyce clicks her tongue, looking away.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You're still moving outta here. I mean, that is the plan, right?

JOYCE: Eh, we'll see how it goes.

HOPPER: 'How it goes'? How what goes?

JOYCE: You know, if...if we actually do make it out of here, we...we deserve to celebrate, right?

HOPPER: Yeah. I mean...yes.

Hopper sits on the stairs beside Joyce.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Absolutely.

Hopper looks away.

JOYCE: I hear Enzo's is pretty good.

Hopper looks at Joyce.

JOYCE (CONT'D): What do you say, Friday, eight o'clock?

HOPPER: Uh...El likes to watch Miami Vice on Fridays. It...it starts at 10, so I...I can't be out late on a Friday.

JOYCE: Okay, well, how about 7, then?

HOPPER: 7? Enzo's, Friday, I meet you there?

JOYCE: No, you pick me up.

HOPPER: Picking you up, 7pm, Friday.

JOYCE: Yeah, it's a date.

Hopper looks a bit shell shocked. He looks away. He looks back after a few moments, inhaling sharply.

HOPPER: Just for clarification, just because I...I mean, just...if...when you say 'date', just so that we're crystal clear about things so there's no confusion-

JOYCE: Yeah, Hop?

HOPPER: Yeah?

JOYCE: Stop talking or I'm gonna change my mind.

HOPPER: Yeah, okay. Yeah. Okay.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – VENTS

Murray crawls through the vents. He comes to a junction, looking in both directions. When he goes to use the walkie talkie connected to his shoulder, he hits the roof of the vents. He grunts as he looks up, annoyed, before he turns the radio on. He sighs.

MURRAY: Scoops Troop, this is...hmm. Bald Eagle.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Robin has joined Dustin and Erica in sitting down. Steve paces around.

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON CEREBRO): I've reached another junction.

DUSTIN: This is what?

ERICA: The fourth junction.

DUSTIN: All right, so if memory serves, this is right after the My Little Pony thesis.

ERICA: We went left, so he has to go right.

DUSTIN: Right. Fly right, Bald Eagle.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – VENTS

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON WALKIE TALKIE): Fly right.

MURRAY: Roger that, flying right.

Murray looks to the right.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Little shit.

Murray starts crawling down the right vent.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Steve has stopped pacing, staring off in the direction of Starcourt.

ROBIN: What's the My Little Pony thesis?

ERICA: Don't get him started.

ROBIN: Get him started? Just tell me-

STEVE: Hey, guys?

The trio looks at Steve. When they see how he's standing, they get up and join him. From the top of the hill, they can see the lights of Starcourt flickering like crazy. They all realise what's happening and run back to Cerebro.

Dustin: Griswold Family, this is Scoops Troop! Do you copy? Over!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

A Supercomm sits on a bench.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): Griswold Family, I repeat, this is Scoops Troop. Do you-

The Supercomm is picked up by the Spider Monster.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Snarling can be heard on Cerebro.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Griswold Family, do you copy?

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

One of the Spider Monster's tendrils brings the Supercomm close to its face.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): Do you copy?!

The Spider Monster roars.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

The Spider Monster's roar comes through on Cerebro.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The Spider Monster tosses the Supercomm aside. It hits the Teppanyaki Japanese sign and falls to the ground, sliding near the car and falling apart.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): (staticky) Griswold Family, this is Scoops Troop. Please confirm your safety!

The camera starts to pan away from the Supercomm and around the car.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): (staticky) Griswold Family, this is Scoops Troop. Please confirm your safety! Are you en route to Bald Eagle's nest?

The camera reaches the other side of the car, where Lucas, Nancy, Jonathan, and Will are hiding. Of the four, Will looks the most terrified, his breathing rapid. Dustin's voice continues indistinctly on the Supercomm. The Spider Monster roars.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): (staticky) Someone, please just answer. Is anyone there? Just answer! Anyone, please...

The Spider Monster walks around, snarling. It passes a food stand, where Max, Mike, and Eleven are hiding. It stops just outside the Gap, snarling. It comes across the thing that Eleven pulled out of her leg, putting its leg next to it as the thing joins back up with a chittering noise. It roars. Eleven pants.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): (distorted) Griswold Family, do you copy? Griswold Family, do you copy?

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Griswold Family, do you copy?

There's a snarling sound on Cerebro. Steve glances towards Starcourt.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Do you copy?!

Steve takes off and starts making his way down the hill.

ERICA: Where the are you going?

STEVE: To get them the hell outta there! Stay here, contact the others!

ROBIN: Shit.

Robin starts running after Steve.

DUSTIN: Wait, Robin!

Robin runs back.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Stay in touch.

Dustin tosses her a Supercomm.

ROBIN: Got it.

Robin starts running down the hill.

DUSTIN: Bald Eagle, this is Scoops Troop. What's your 20?

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – VENTS

Murray crawls along.

MURRAY: I told you, radio silence!

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Yeah, but we have a problem.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

Hopper stands up.

HOPPER: What kind of problem?

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The Spider Monster roars. It hovers above the food stand, snarling. Eleven pants. It moves away, snarling. The camera pans down to the side of the car, where Will, Jonathan, Nancy, and Lucas are hiding. Will is visibly freaking out. The Spider Monster snarls. Nancy glances up at the side mirror, seeing the Spider Monster pick up a Russian guar by the leg, sniff him, and toss him aside. She glances away, panting. Mike quickly stands up and peeks over the counter, seeing the Spider Monster close to the car, facing away from them. He ducks back down.

MIKE: It's turned away. If we go up the stairs now, we'll make it.

MAX: No way, not with El's leg.

MIKE: We have to try.

ELEVEN: There's another way...

Mike turns to Eleven.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): To get out. Through the Gap.

Mike peeks over the counter again, seeing the Spider Monster in the same position. It snarls. He ducks back down.

MIKE: Okay. Now.

Mike grabs Eleven's hand, and the three of them make a beeline for the Gap. Glass crunches as they step over the broken glass to get inside. Eleven staggers and knocks over a bag stand, making Max gasp. The Spider Monster immediately looks in the direction of the noise, roaring. It walks towards the Gap, screeching, before it stomps a foot inside with a roar.

INT. GAP – NIGHT

Tendrils sprout off from the leg and move inside, looking around and snarling. One of the tendrils spots Eleven's arm and the sleeve of her shirt hiding behind a pillar, chittering before it reaches around. It grabs Eleven by the neck and pulls her to the front of the store, showing her to the Spider Monster. It's not Eleven, just a mannequin wearing the same shirt. The Spider Monster roars at it. It tosses the mannequin across the room, where it hits a shelf and falls to the ground, landing next to the trio. They stare at it in fear, panting.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

Murray opens the vent and half climbs out, panting. He reaches for the walkie talkie on his shoulder.

MURRAY: Bald Eagle has landed. Repeat. Bald Eagle...

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON CEREBRO): ...has landed.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

Hopper sighs.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

Murray unfolds the papers.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Okay.

Murray looks at the papers, moving around to figure out exactly what his location is in regards to the drawing of the room.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

HOPPER: Come on, how much longer?

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

MURRAY: I don't know, I've never done this before!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

Hopper paces.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

Murray rotates the papers.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Okay.

Murray turns to the right, finding a large electrical cupboard.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Okay, okay!

Murray walks over to the electrical cupboard and opens the door, finding devices with many wires.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Get ready, lovebirds, you're almost up to bat.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Jonathan slowly peeks over the car, looking at the Spider Monster as it stands outside the Gap.

INT. GAP – NIGHT

One of the Spider Monster's tendrils snakes through the store. When it comes to the shelving Max, Mike, and Eleven had just been hiding behind, it rounds the corner and snaps. They're gone. It looks around. The camera pans away from the tendril and lands on the counter, where the trio is now hiding. The short end of the counter is barely wide enough to hide all three of them.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

Murray pulls a wire.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Alarms blare. Scientists try to figure out what's wrong.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

Murray pulls another wire.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Alarms blare. Scientists try to figure out what's wrong.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

Murray pulls another wire.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

The machine slowly powers down, sparking. An agent in a red hazmat suit runs up the stairs and presses a button.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

An alarm on the wall begins to blare, flashing red. Joyce and Hopper look at it. They run over to the door in front of the room, with Hopper putting the key card in the reader and pushing the door open.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The Spider Monster snarls. Jonathan ducks back down.

JONATHAN: Oh, shit.

Lucas ducks back down from where he was peeking over the hood, panting. He looks down and sees his wrist rocket, pulling it on and getting ready.

NANCY: What are you doing?

LUCAS: Don't worry.

INT. GAP – NIGHT

One of the Spider Monster's tendrils snake through the store, chittering. It nears the counter Max, Mike, and Eleven are hiding behind.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Lucas stands up, aiming the wrist rocket at the Spider Monster. He closes his eyes.

INT. GAP – NIGHT

One of the Spider Monster's tendrils appears next to Mike, screeching. Max looks away.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Lucas turns the wrist rocket away from the Spider Monster, aiming it at Sam Goody. He lets go and hits a balloon, popping it. The Spider Monster immediately turns in the direction of the sound, screeching. Lucas quickly ducks back down. The Spider Monster screeches.

INT. GAP – NIGHT

The Spider Monster's tendril snakes its way away from the trio and out of the store, rejoining its leg as the Spider Monster walks in the direction of Sam Goody.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Jonathan peeks over the edge, watching as the Spider Monster walks away from the Gap and towards Sam goody.

JONATHAN: Go! Go, go, go, go, go, go!

The quad jump over the counter of New York pizza and make their way into the kitchen, headed for the service corridor.

INT. GAP – NIGHT

Mike grabs Eleven's hand.

MIKE: Let's go.

Mike, Eleven, and Max run to the back of the store.

The quad runs through the kitchen, headed for the service corridor.

INT. GAP – NIGHT

Mike pushes the back door open and the trio make their way into the service corridor.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BACK CORRIDOR – NIGHT

The quad rounds a corner into the stairwell and starts up the stairs.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HALLWAY

Soldiers run through the hallway as an alarm blares, a female voice speaking Russian on the PA. Hopper and Joyce hide around a corner, waiting for the right moment.

HOPPER: Let's go.

Hopper and Joyce make their way into the hallway, running in the opposite direction to the soldiers.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – COURTYARD

Hopper and Joyce round a corner and make their way up the stairs. As they reach a door to a room on the top platform, a soldier comes out of the room. Hopper and Joyce pause.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER: (in Russian) Did Mikhail send for you?

Hopper and Joyce awkwardly nod and smile, trying to play it cool. The soldier jerks his head towards the door and pushes past them to run down the stairs, allowing them to continue. They run around the platform and come across another door. Hopper puts the key card in the reader and opens the door.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – KEY VAULT

Hopper pushes the door open and walks inside, followed by Joyce. They stand in one half of the room. In the other half of the room is the safe. An octagonal hallway lit with red lighting joins the two halves of the room. Joyce gasps. They share a look as the door closes behind them, before they walk through the hallway and into the other side. Hopper bends in front of the safe, while Joyce stands beside him, pulling out the papers.

HOPPER: All right.

JOYCE: Okay.

HOPPER: Give me the code.

JOYCE: Okay. Six-six-two, six-oh-eight, oh-oh-four.

Hopper pushes the keypad with each number Joyce reads out. The panel beeps red. Hopper tries the handle, straining, but is unable to open it. They stare at the safe in disbelief.

HOPPER: Uh...again?

JOYCE: Six-six-two, six-oh-eight, oh-oh-four.

Hopper pushes the keypad with each number Joyce reads out. Again, the panel beeps red. Hopper takes a few steps back and pulls out his walkie talkie.

HOPPER: Murray? Your goddamn code...is wrong.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

MURRAY: What? Are you sure?

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – KEY VAULT

HOPPER: Yeah, I'm sure.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

MURRAY: Well, I...I suppose it could be wrong.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – KEY VAULT

HOPPER: How could it be wrong?

Hopper grabs the papers from Joyce and looks at them.

MURRAY (ON WALKIE TALKIE): The code is a number, a famous number.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

MURRAY (CONT'D): Planck's constant. I...I thought I knew it.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Dustin and Erica listen to Hopper and Murray argue on Cerebro.

DUSTIN: Planck's constant.

ERICA: You know it?

DUSTIN: Not by heart. You?

ERICA: I'm not a nerd, nerd.

MURRAY (ON CEREBRO): He told me it was Planck's constant, which I know. Why would I need him to give me a number I already know?

Dustin has a realisation and starts turning a dial on Cerebro, the static hissing.

ERICA: What are you doing?

The radio static hisses.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Lucas, Will, Jonathan, and Nancy run outside and towards the Wheeler car.

JONATHAN: Go, go, go!

Jonathan and Nancy run to the hood, with Jonathan plugging the ignition cable in. Billy revs his car engine at the end of the carpark, reminding them of his presence.

INT. BILLY'S CAR

Billy grips the steering wheel as he revs the car.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Shit.

NANCY: Get the car started. Go!

Nancy slowly rounds the front of the car. Jonathan closes the hood and rounds the car to get into the driver's seat. Nancy cocks her gun and stands in front of the car, aiming the gun at Billy.

INT. WHEELER CAR

Jonathan gets in and turns the ignition. The engine sputters.

JONATHAN: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. Come on.

INT. BILLY'S CAR

Billy revs the engine, moving the gearstick into drive and pressing the accelerator. Tires screech as he starts speeding towards them.

INT. WHEELER CAR

Jonathan keeps trying to turn the car on.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Come on.

LUCAS: We gotta go!

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Nancy shoots at Billy.

INT. BILLY'S CAR

Bullets hit the windshield and make small cracks, but Billy is unfazed.

INT. WHEELER CAR

Jonathan keeps trying to turn the car on.

JONATHAN: Come on!

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Nancy shoots at Billy but he's unfazed, speeding towards them. As Billy gets really close, Nancy stops firing.

INT. WHEELER CAR

Jonathan keeps trying to turn the car on. Lucas and Will panic, with Lucas' face lit up by Billy's headlights.

LUCAS: We gotta go!

INT. BILLY'S CAR

As he speeds towards them, hands gripping the steering wheel, he looks as if he doesn't want to do what he's doing.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Nancy gasps when she realises Billy's not stopping. Having nowhere to run, she ducks and tries to make herself small.

INT. BILLY'S CAR

A car drives towards the car and hits its side, throwing Billy to the side.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Billy's car spins out as it's hit by Todd's car, both cars doing 180 spins. The passenger side of Billy's car is crushed, and the hood of Todd's car is bent up.

INT. TODD'S CAR

Steve and Robin are thrown to the side from the impact before they right their bodies, breathing heavily.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Nancy stands up, panting. She looks at Billy's car before looking at Todd's car, shocked.

INT. BILLY'S CAR

Billy sits slumped to the side in the driver's seat, head resting on the door. The hood catches fire.

INT. TODD'S CAR

Steve and Robin catch their breaths.

STEVE: Are you okay?

ROBIN: Ask me tomorrow?

The Spider Monster snarls from inside the mall. Steve and Robin look towards the mall, using the windshield frame to help them stand up.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Oh, shit!

They watch as the Spider Monster crawls onto the roof and stands on the edge, staring down at them. It roars. Jonathan honks the horn of the Wheeler car as it squeals to a stop next to them.

NANCY: Get in!

Steve and Robin hop out of Todd's car and run to climb into the boot of the Wheeler car. The Spider Monster screeches.

LUCAS: Go, go, go, go!

STEVE: Go, go, go!

Steve shuts the boot behind him, and Jonathan takes off. The Spider Monster screeches, climbing down from the roof and chasing after the car with a roar.

EXT. BINGHAM HOUSE – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

Crickets chirp. A dog barks in the distance.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

Radio static crackles. Suzie sits on the lower half of her trundle bed, reading Ursula K Le Guin's *A Wizard of Earthsea*.

DUSTIN (ON CEREBRO): Suzie, do you copy?

Suzie gasps upon hearing Dustin's voice, lowering her book and looking at the radio on her desk.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON CEREBRO): Suzie, do you copy?

Suzie runs over to her desk and sits down.

SUZIE: This is Suzie. I copy.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Suzie!

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

SUZIE: Dusty-bun?

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

ERICA: 'Dusty-bun'?

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

SUZIE: Where have you been?

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: I'm so, so sorry. I...I've been really busy...uh, trying to save the world from Russians and monsters.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

Suzie chuckles.

SUZIE: Of course you have.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

ERICA: Get the goddamn number already!

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

Suzie's smile fades.

SUZIE: Who was that?

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: It was...uh, I don't know, actually. I think it was just some interference. So, why don't we, uh, change frequency...

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON CEREBRO): ...to 14.158?

SUZIE: Copy that, shifting frequency. Standby.

Suzie turns a dial on her radio.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

The Wheeler car speeds along, the Spider Monster chasing after it.

INT. WHEELER CAR

Steve and Robin watch the Spider Monster chase them from the boot, panting.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

The Wheeler car speeds along, the Spider Monster chasing after it.

INT. WHEELER CAR

Steve and Robin watch the Spider Monster chase them from the boot.

SUZIE (ON CEREBRO): Dusty-bun, do you copy?

Steve and Robin look at the Supercomm in Robin's hands.

DUSTIN (ON CEREBRO): I copy, Suzie-poo. It sounds much better now, thanks.

Steve and Robin look at each other.

STEVE and ROBIN (IN UNISON): Suzie.

DUSTIN (ON CEREBRO): Okay, so, listen...

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Do you know Planck's constant.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

SUZIE: Do you know the Earth orbits the sun?

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Dustin snickers.

DUSTIN: Okay, so I know it starts with...

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – KEY VAULT

Hopper and Joyce listen in.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON CEREBRO): ...two sixes, and then a...

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D): W-what is it?

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

SUZIE: Okay, let me just be clear on this. I haven't heard from you in a week, and now you want a mathematical equation that you should know so you can...save the world?

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Suzie-poo, I promise, I will make it up to you as soon as possible.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

SUZIE: You can make it up to me now.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: What?

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

SUZIE: I want to hear it.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Not right now.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

SUZIE: Yes, now, Dusty-bun.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Suzie-poo, this is urgent.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

SUZIE: Yes, yes, you're saving the world, I heard you the first time, but Ged is also saving Earthsea and he's about to confront the shadow, so this is Suzie, signing off.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Wait, wait, wait! Okay.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

Suzie turns back to her radio.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON CEREBRO): Okay. Okay.

Suzie smiles.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Dustin holds his receiver in his hands as they rest in his lap. Erica stares at him.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Shit.

Dustin sighs. He glances at Erica for a brief second before he brings the receiver close to his mouth.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): (singing) Turn around...

Erica looks at Dustin in shock and disbelief.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): (singing) Look at what you see...

Dustin looks at Erica briefly before adjusting his body so that he can't see her.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): (singing) In her face...

INT. WHEELER CAR

The Spider Monster chases the car. Steve and Robin sit in the boot, staring at the Supercomm in Robin's lap.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON CEREBRO): (singing) The mirror of your dreams...

Steve looks incredibly confused.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

Suzie holds her radio receiver in her hand.

DUSTIN (ON CEREBRO) and Suzie (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (singing) Make believe I'm everywhere...

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Dustin grins.

SUZIE (ON CEREBRO) and Dustin (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (singing) Given in the light...

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

Suzie stands up, bouncing.

DUSTIN (ON CEREBRO) and Suzie (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (singing) Written on the pages is...the answer to a never-ending story...

Suzie puts her fist in the air.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

SUZIE (ON CEREBRO) and Dustin (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (singing) Ah-ah-ah, ah-ah-ah, ah-ah-ah...

There's a split screen, with Suzie on the left and Dustin on the right.

DUSTIN and SUZIE (CONT'D)(ON CEREBRO)(IN UNISON): (singing) Reach the stars...fly a fantasy...

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – KEY VAULT

DUSTIN and SUZIE (CONT'D)(ON CEREBRO)(IN UNISON): (singing) Dream a dream...

Hopper walks away from the safe in disbelief. Joyce turns and rests her forearms on the wall beside the safe.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

DUSTIN and SUZIE (CONT'D)(ON CERE BRO)(IN UNISON): (singing) And what you see will be...

Murray listens in disbelief, contemplating life.

INT. WHEELER CAR

Steve, Robin, Will, and Lucas look around the car in disbelief. The Spider Monster continues to chase after the car.

DUSTIN and SUZIE (CONT'D)(ON CERE BRO)(IN UNISON): (singing) Rhymes that keep their secrets will...

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN (ON CERE BRO) and Suzie (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (singing) Unfold behind the clouds...

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Erica stares at Dustin in disbelief.

SUZIE (ON CERE BRO) and Dustin (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (singing) And there upon a rainbow is...the answer...

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – KEY VAULT

DUSTIN and SUZIE (CONT'D (ON CERE BRO)(IN UNISON): (singing) ... to a never-ending...

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN (ON CERE BRO) and Suzie (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (singing) ...story...

Suzie's smile fades slightly.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

SUZIE (ON CERE BRO) and Dustin (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (singing) Ah-ah-ah, ah-ah-ah, ah-ah-ah...

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN (ON CERE BRO) and Suzie (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (singing) Story...ah-ah-ah, ah-ah-ah, ah-ah-ah...

Suzie looks down as her smile fades completely. She looks sad.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Dustin smiles as they finish singing, chuckling.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

SUZIE: Planck's constant is 6.62607004.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – KEY VAULT

Hopper quickly turns around and rushes to the safe, putting the numbers in. The panel beeps green. Hopper tries the door and it opens, revealing a case in the wall. He grabs it and shuts the safe door.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: You just saved the world.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE’S ROOM – NIGHT

Suzie lets out a light chuckle. She smiles sadly.

SUZIE: Gosh, I miss you, Dusty-bun.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: And I miss you more, Suzie-poo.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE’S ROOM – NIGHT

SUZIE: I miss you more, multiplied by all the galaxies in our galaxy.

DUSTIN (ON CEREBRO): No, I miss you-

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Erica switches Cerebro off.

ERICA: Enough.

Dustin looks at Erica. She shakes her head slightly.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE’S ROOM – NIGHT

Static hisses. Suzie stares at her receiver, confused.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Billy reaches his hand outside and opens the car door. He falls out of the car and hits the ground, coughing. He shuts the door once he’s out of range before using it to pull himself up, groaning. He starts limping away from the car, ready to chase after the car himself, but stops when he hears a buzzer sound. Turning around, he sees Mike and Max helping Eleven escape through the back gate. They freeze when they see him.

MAX: Shit!

MIKE: Go, go, go, go, go, go, go!

The trio turns and starts heading back the way they came. Billy limps after them. Mike and Max help Eleven along. Max gives Eleven to Mike and runs back to the gate, pressing the button before running back to Eleven and Mike. A buzzer sounds and the gate slowly begins to close.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

The Wheeler car speeds along, followed by the Spider Monster. It suddenly stops, looking behind it with a shriek, before it turns around and starts heading back towards Starcourt. The Wheeler car keeps driving.

INT. WHEELER CAR

Steve and Robin watch the Spider Monster turn around from the boot. Steve turns to the front.

STEVE: It’s turning around.

Nancy turns to look.

NANCY: What?

Steve looks back at the retreating Spider Monster.

STEVE: It's turning around!

LUCAS: Maybe we wore it out.

JONATHAN: I don't think so. Hold on.

Jonathan turns the wheel, sending the car into a sharp 180-degree turn. He takes off back to Starcourt.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Just as the gate is about to close, Billy reaches it and puts his hand in. He pushes the gate open with a yell.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BACK CORRIDOR – NIGHT

Mike, Max, and Eleven run along, panting. Eleven looks tired. She groans.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Alarms blare. Agents in hazmat suits run around on the platform, fixing things. One agent runs down the stairs to help a growing group of agents trying to push their way into the Hub.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

Murray has blocked the door off with a cabinet. He watches the door from the other end of the room as he pushes some levers.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Hopper opens the door and walks in, holding the case from the safe. Joyce enters behind him.

HOPPER: Hey! Everybody out.

The scientists in the room turn to look at him but don't move.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Everybody out!

Hopper raises his gun to the roof and fires, making the scientists run for the door. Once they're gone, he and Joyce are able to see inside the Gate room properly. Joyce slowly walks towards the windows, looking at the machine and Gate in horror. Hopper stands back.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Hey.

Joyce turns around to look at Hopper. He holds the case up.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You ready to end this?

Joyce nods. Hopper walks over to a desk and sets the case down, clicking the lock. He opens the lid to reveal two keys inside.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BACK CORRIDOR – NIGHT

Mike, Max, and Eleven run along, panting. Mike spots a room at the end of the corridor.

MIKE: In here. In here.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – SERVICE ELEVATOR ROOM – NIGHT

Mike pushes the buttons outside to call the elevator.

MIKE (CONT'D): Okay. Come on, come on, come on...

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BACK CORRIDOR – NIGHT

Billy pushes the door open. Max leaves the elevator room upon hearing the door open, seeing Billy limping towards them.

MAX: Billy.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – SERVICE ELEVATOR ROOM – NIGHT

Mike and Eleven immediately turn around upon hearing Max speak. Mike stands in front of Eleven.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BACK CORRIDOR – NIGHT

Billy limps towards Max, determined.

MAX (CONT'D): Billy, you don't have to do this. Billy. Your name's Billy, Billy Hargrove. You live on 4819 Cherry Lane. Billy, please, I'm Max, I'm your-

Max is cut off by Billy smacking her across the face, sending her to the ground.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – SERVICE ELEVATOR ROOM – NIGHT

Eleven looks scared. Mike runs towards Billy as he walks into the room, but Billy grabs him by the collar and throws him against the wall, knocking him out. Billy walks towards Eleven. She thrusts her hand out with a yell. He grabs her arm and pulls it to the side, putting his other hand on her face and shoving her head against the wall. He then grabs her and throws her against another wall, where she falls to the ground. Billy walks over and picks the now unconscious Eleven up, throwing her over his shoulder. He walks out of the elevator room and into the service corridor, walking away from Max and Mike with Eleven in his possession.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce and Hopper move to the two small consoles at the front of the room.

HOPPER: Murray, you all set down there?

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HUB

Murray pushes a lever.

MURRAY: All set, but I've got some company which I'd love you to obliterate.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

HOPPER: Will do. Hang tight.

Hopper inserts his key into the keyhole on the console. On the other side, Joyce does the same. They look at each other.

HOPPER (CONT'D): On three.

JOYCE: On three.

HOPPER: One...two...

Hopper suddenly turns around right as Grigori grabs him by the next, throwing him against the bottom of a window. Joyce gasps and looks around, seeing Hopper's discarded gun in the middle of the room. Grigori stares down at Hopper. Joyce runs for the gun but is stopped by Grigori, who grabs her right before she reaches it and turns her around to face him. He throws her against one of the desks, making her yell in pain. He stands facing away from the Gate and pulls out his walkie talkie.

GRIGORI: (in Russian) The Americans, I've found them-

Grigori is cut off by Hopper tackling him from behind, sending him to the ground. Hopper goes to punch Grigori, who blocks him before kicking him in the stomach and sending him into the desk behind them. Grigori stands up and runs at Hopper, who runs at him, managing to overpower Grigori and push him into the corner of the room. Grigori punches Hopper in the stomach, then two times in the face. He pulls Hopper back by the face, kicking his feet out from under him and sending him to the ground.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BACK CORRIDOR – NIGHT

Billy walks along, carrying the unconscious Eleven over his shoulder. He opens a door and walks out into the Scoops Ahoy back room, before he kicks open the back door and walks through the shop. He grabs the gated shop front door and pulls it upwards, ripping the lock out of the ground. He walks out of Scoops Ahoy and into the food court.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Billy walks out of Scoops Ahoy and stands near the steps leading to the slightly lower level. He hikes Eleven off his shoulder and into his arms, bridal style, before he gently lowers her to the ground. Kneeling down, he leans over Eleven and puts his mouth next to her ear.

BILLY: (whispers) Don't be afraid.

Eleven's eyes flicker.

BILLY (CONT'D): (whispers) It'll be over soon.

Eleven's eyes flicker open.

BILLY (CONT'D): (whispers) Just try and stay...very still.

Eleven moves her head to look at Billy, who has lifted his head and is looking towards the centre of the food court. Eleven moves her head to look at the ceiling, watching with blurry vision as the Spider Monster climbs inside and rests its feet on the railings of the top floor. Her vision becomes clear as it climbs down to the main floor, snarling. She whimpers and pushes her upper body up, trying to crawl away. The Spider Monster walks closer, snarling. Billy stands behind Eleven. Eleven looks terrified, trying to pull herself away. A tendril moves out of the Spider Monster's mouth, screeching as it opens its 'head' and slinks towards Eleven. The Spider Monster's side is suddenly hit by a firework, making it shriek in pain and move slightly to the side. Billy also moves slightly to the side, affected by the hive mind.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Lucas stands at the railing, holding a bunch of Satan's Baby fireworks taped together, the ends lit. Will stands behind him.

LUCAS: Flay this, you ugly piece of shit!

Lucas throws the firework as the Spider Monster roars at him, hitting it directly in the mouth. The Spider Monster takes a few steps backwards, shrieking. The Spider Monster is suddenly hit with fireworks on all sides, making it shriek.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Jonathan throws a firework at the Spider Monster, followed by Nancy.

STEVE: Hey, asshole! Over here!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Steve throws a firework at the Spider Monster, hitting it in the mouth. Eleven stands beside him, holding a lit firework.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Grigori pushes Hopper out of the Gate observation room and into a railing, before he punches him in the back. Hopper groans and elbows Grigori in the face, before turning around and pushing Grigori into another railing. Hopper goes to punch Grigori who blocks and punches him. Grigori grabs Hopper and throws him down the stairs, where he lands on the top of a railing with his stomach before landing on the walkway. Grigori jumps down the stairs and lands on the walkway behind Hopper as he stands up. Grigori kicks Hopper in the stomach, sending him backwards. Grigori punches Hopper in the face, who staggers onto where the platform opens to the stairs to the lower level. They stand facing each other, the machine whirring between them. Hopper spits out blood and wipes his mouth. Hopper puts his hands up, motioning for Grigori to 'come on' before he balls them into fists.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Will throws a firework at the Spider Monster. The Spider Monster screeches with each hit, bombarded from each side.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Billy grunts and contorts his body with each hit to the Spider Monster, affected through the hive mind.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Steve throws a firework at the Spider Monster.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Billy yells. Eleven looks between him and the Spider Monster, scared.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Nancy throws a firework at the Spider Monster, followed by Jonathan.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Billy yells and falls to his knees, putting his hands on the ground to support himself. The Spider Monster continues to screech as its bombarded by fireworks.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper punches Grigori who punches him back, then again. Grigori steps towards Hopper who moves aside, grabbing Grigori and pushing him against the controls before punching him. Grigori falls against the railing beside the stairs while Hopper staggers backwards. Grigori yells as he runs at Hopper, grabbing him as he runs past, which succeeds in pulling Hopper over the railing and making him fall on the platform.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The Spider Monster screeches as its bombarded by fireworks. Billy yells in pain. Eleven takes the chance to turn over and start trying to crawl towards Scoops Ahoy, but Billy is able to crawl after her and grab her left before she gets too far. Eleven yells in pain, the leg grabbed being her injured one. Billy drags Eleven back to where they were before, ignoring her screams and attempts to get away. He turns her onto her back and throws her leg down, kneeling and grabbing her head. Each time the Spider Monster is hit, he shakes her.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce puts her hand on the edge of the desk and uses it to pull herself up, panting. She spots Hopper and Grigori fighting, watching as Grigori goes to kick Hopper.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper catches Grigori's leg and uses it to push him onto the platform, dropping his leg to lift his arms up and bring them down on Grigori's chest. Hopper punches Grigori's chest before once again lifting his arms and bringing them down, making Grigori groan. Grigori kicks Hopper's side and sends him to the edge of the platform, dangerously close to the whirring machine. Hopper watches the blades whiz past his face, centimetres from hurting him. Grigori uses the railing to help himself up.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce watches the events unfolding in horror.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Grigori puts his foot on Hopper's neck to stop him from getting up, slowly pushing him closer to the whirring blades of the machine.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Nancy lights a firework and throws it at the Spider Monster.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

WILL: We're almost out!

LUCAS: I know!

Lucas throws a firework at the Spider Monster.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Robin throws a firework at the Spider Monster.

STEVE: Dustin! We're out of time!

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Hurry! Close it now!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Hopper's walkie talkie lies on the ground.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): Close it!

Joyce looks from the walkie talkie back to the Gate room, watching as Grigori pushes Hopper towards the machine. Joyce looks between the keys already inserted into the consoles. She pulls her shoulder strap off, tying one end around one of the keys. She stretches to grab the other key, straining, but just shy of it.

JOYCE: Come on!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – SERVICE ELEVATOR ROOM – NIGHT

Max's eyes flicker open. She looks around, spotting Mike unconscious nearby.

MAX: Mike...Mike.

Max pushes herself up and crawls over to Mike.

MAX (CONT'D): Mike.

Max shakes Mike.

MAX (CONT'D): Mike. Mike. Mike, get up. Mike, can you hear me? Mike! Mike!

Mike opens his eyes, looking dazed.

MAX (CONT'D): Hey, come on.

Max grabs Mike's arms and helps pull him to his feet.

MAX (CONT'D): You okay?

Mike looks into the elevator room to find Eleven. His eyes widen.

MIKE: Where's El?

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Billy kneels over Eleven. She looks between him and the Spider Monster, scared. He winces each time it's hit. Eleven looks at Billy.

Flashback to #306. The Void. Reversed: Billy lets go of Eleven's arm. Eleven falls backwards in slow motion, her scream echoing.

Flashback to #303. Outside the Holloway house. Billy watches Max and Eleven leave on Max's bike through the small window next to the door. Black tendrils snake in the whites of his eyes.

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. A California beach. Young Billy smiles at his mum, holding a surfboard. She waves at him.

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. SOURCE

Young Billy breaks away from Neil, throwing down his baseball mitt and running away.

YOUNG BILLY: Leave me alone!

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. SOURCE

The storm rages. Neil and Billy's mum fight.

YOUNG BILLY (CONT'D): Stop it!

Neil hits Billy's mum.

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. Young Billy's room. The storm rages. Young Billy sits on the floor beside his bed, phone in hand.

FLSHBCK – INT./EXT. SOURCE

The storm rages. Neil stands next to Young Max, introducing her to Young Billy.

NEIL: This is your new sister.

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. A California beach. Billy's mum stands on the beach.

FLSHBCK – EXT. CALIFORNIA BEACH – BILLY'S MINDSCAPE

Billy's mum kisses him on the forehead.

YOUNG BILLY: ...at least seven feet.

Flashback to #306. The Void. Eleven falls backwards in slow motion, her scream silent.

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. A California beach. Eleven lands on her back on the sand, the tide washing over her.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

ELEVEN: Seven...feet.

Eleven gasps. Fireworks crackle. The shred of humanity left in Billy makes his eyebrows furrow slightly.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): You told her...the wave was seven feet.

FLSHBCK – EXT. CALIFORNIA BEACH – BILLY'S MINDSCAPE

Young Billy paddles out. His mum watches from the beach.

BILLY'S MOTHER: Woo! Yeah!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Billy takes a breath. The black tendrils that had almost entirely taken over his face have retreated significantly.

ELEVEN: You ran to her, on the beach.

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. A California beach. Young Billy runs up to his mum, laughing.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): There were seagulls.

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. A California beach. Seagulls take off.

Billy breathes heavily. The black tendrils try to grow back.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): She wore a hat...

Billy sniffles.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): With a blue ribbon.

Billy gasps.

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. A California beach. Billy's mum watches him. She's blurry.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): A long dress...with a blue and red flower.

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. A California beach. Billy's mum watches him. She comes into focus.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Yell-yellow sandals,

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. A California beach. Billy's mum watches him. She holds her at and yellow sandals in one hand, with the sandals covered in sand.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): Covered in sand.

Eleven's words are getting to Billy. He stares into her eyes.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): She was pretty.

Billy closes his eyes.

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. A California beach. Billy's mum watches him. She laughs.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): She was really pretty.

Billy nods, tears welling in his eyes.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): And you...you were happy.

Flashback to #306. Billy's mindscape. A California beach. Young Billy holds a surfboard, laughing.

A tear rolls down Billy's cheek and rests on his nose. The black tendrils on his face are gone. Eleven slowly reaches a hand up and touches the side of his cheek. He closes his eyes.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Grigori continues to push Hopper towards the whirring blades.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce strains to reach the second key.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper grabs Grigori's shoe and starts to push upwards on it, groaning as he fights Grigori's strength. He grips Grigori's pant leg and twists his foot, snapping his ankle. Hopper grabs Grigori by the shirt and pulls him down, making a blade hit him as it spins. Blood sprays from the impact and Grigori yells in pain, stumbling backwards. Hopper stands up and gets ready to fight as Grigori turns around, pissed. Grigori goes to punch Hopper but he catches his fist, pushing him backwards into a the railing. Hopper pushes his thumb into one of Grigori's bullet wounds, making him yell. He punches at Hopper who catches his arm, a hand around his neck. Hopper gets close to Grigori's face.

HOPPER: I'll see you in hell!

Hopper pulls Grigori around and tosses him into the machine, which essentially chops him into pieces, spraying blood. Hopper shields his face as the machine has a mini explosion, with one of the spinners creating a circle of electricity, blocking off his way back to the Gate observation room. Hopper turns around, looking at the Gate.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Nancy grabs a firework from the bucket, realising it's the last one. She and Jonathan share a look.

NANCY: Hit me.

Nancy lights the firework and throws it at the Spider Monster.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The Spider Monster screeches as it's bombarded by fireworks.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Lucas throws a firework at the Spider Monster.

WILL: We're out!

Lucas looks at the boxes.

LUCAS: Damn it!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The Spider Monster stops screeching as the fireworks stop, a sign of all three groups having run out. Eleven looks at the Spider Monster as it turns to face them. Billy looks at it and stands up, standing in front of Eleven. The Spider Monster snarls, then roars.

INT. SCOOPS AHOY – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Mike and Max run out of the back room but stop at the door when they see the Spider Monster. Billy stands in front of Eleven, who starts to crawl backwards the best she can.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Billy faces off against the Spider Monster as it shrieks. A tendril moves out of the Spider Monster's mouth, opening it's 'head' as it slinks towards Eleven. She tries to crawl away, terrified. It lunges towards her. Eleven puts her arms up to protect herself...Billy catches it.

BILLY: No!

Billy pushes back against the tendril, yelling.

INT. SCOOPS AHOY – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Max watches with wide eyes.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Billy yells as he pushes back against the tendril, it's 'teeth' trying to get to him. He doesn't notice other tendrils appearing around the Spider Monster. One of them attaches onto his side, making him scream in pain. Another latches onto his other side. Billy goes almost limp, weakened. He lets go of the tendril, which snakes back into the Spider Monster's back. A tendril latches onto his back, before two more latch onto either side. Billy screams.

INT. SCOOPS AHOY – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Max watches in horror.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Eleven watches in horror.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Close it now! Close it!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

The agents who had been trying to get into the Hub walk away from it, staring at the electricity circle in fear. They know what's coming.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce strains, finally managing to grab the second key. Stretched thin, she looks into the Gate room.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper turns from the Gate to look into the observation room, looking at Joyce with a sad expression. He knows what needs to be done.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce stares at Hopper through the electricity circle.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

The machine spins, the beam still aimed at the Gate.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Billy falls to his knees, the Spider Monster's tendrils still latched onto his torso. The Spider Monster roars at him. Billy screams in retaliation as a tendril moves out of the Spider Monster's mouth. It plunges into Billy's chest.

INT. SCOOPS AHOY – EATING AREA – NIGHT

MAX: Billy!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The Spider Monster pulls its mouth tendril out of Billy's chest, making him grunt. He spits up blood. The tendrils leave his body, and he falls to the side, landing on his back.

INT. SCOOPS AHOY – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Max stares in horror.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper looks at Joyce. He nods, a sad smile on his face.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce looks at Hopper, reluctant. She doesn't want to do it, but she knows she has to.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper's smile gets a little wider, letting Joyce know that it's okay. Tears well in his eyes.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce closes her eyes, a tear rolling down her cheek. Moving her head away with her eyes squeezed shut, she pulls on the belt strap and turns the second key.

Cut to black.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

The front of the machine breaks, the beam immediately stopping. The electricity circle increases in speed before exploding. The agents standing outside the Hub room are disintegrated.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce holds her hands in front of her face, blocking the bright light from the explosion.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

With the beam now gone, the Gate quickly closes up.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The Spider Monster screeches, moving around and throwing its arms in pain.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Steve and Robin back away as the Spider Monster throws itself against the railing, falling to the ground with the shake from the impact.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The Spider Monster collapses on the ground with a loud thud, dead.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Steve and Robin quickly get up to look over the railing, panting.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Nancy and Jonathan look over the railing, panting.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Will and Lucas look over the railing, panting.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

The Spider Monster lays on the ground, dead. Small patches of fire have lit up on the ground around it.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce slowly looks back at the Gate room, looking at the spot where Hopper stood.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Eleven kneels close to Billy, panting. Mike runs up to her, kneeling and pulling her into a hug.

MIKE: El.

ELEVEN: Mike!

Eleven holds Mike close, sobbing. Max slowly walks towards Billy on the ground.

MAX: Billy?

Billy lies on the ground, trying not to choke on his blood. His shirt is soaked red from his wounds.

MAX (CONT'D): Billy.

Max kneels beside Billy.

MAX (CONT'D): Billy, Billy, get up, please. Billy, get up, please, please.

BILLY: I'm sorry.

MAX: Billy...

Billy exhales sharply. Max shakes him gently.

MAX (CONT'D): Billy. Billy.

Max starts to shake Billy harder.

MAX (CONT'D): Billy, wake up. Billy, get up. Please, Billy...

Max sobs.

MAX (CONT'D): Billy! Billy...

Max sniffles.

MAX (CONT'D): Billy...

ELEVEN: I'm sorry.

Eleven touches Max's arm, and she falls against her. Eleven holds Max as she sobs.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): It's okay. It's okay. It's okay. It's okay.

Eleven looks at Billy, then at Mike. She strokes Max's hair.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

The machine is completely destroyed. Joyce stands on the platform, staring at where Hopper was before. She sobs.

JOYCE: Hop.

Joyce stares at the spot Hopper once was, in shock that he's gone. Murray runs up behind her and turns her around.

MURRAY: Jim. Where's Jim?

Joyce can only sob in response. Murray breathes heavily, realising that he's gone.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Soldiers open the door and run in.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Murray spins around when he hears the door open. Joyce gasps.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

One of the soldiers orders the others to get inside the Gate room.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Murray and Joyce run down the stairs, hand in hand, and run into the Hub.

EXT. WEATHERTOP – NIGHT

Dustin and Erica stare at Starcourt Mall. They slowly turn their heads to look behind them, seeing a number of helicopters flying overhead. They watch them fly in the direction of Starcourt Mall.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

The helicopters touch down, lighting up the rain that whips around from the force of the blades. The water on the asphalt of the carpark ripples away. Soldiers get out of the helicopters and walk towards the mall. Owens leads them.

SOLDIER: Let's go! Go! Come on!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – CANISTER STORAGE ROOM

Murray helps pull Joyce out of the vents.

MURRAY: Are you all right?

The doors to the container storage room open and soldiers run in, armed with guns and torches, which they aim at Murray and Joyce.

SOLDIERS: Hands up!

Joyce and Murray hold their hands up.

MURRAY: Don't shoot! American! We're Americans! Americans!

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – COURTYARD

Soldiers round the corners and scatter around the base, yelling indistinctly.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – COMMS ROOM

Soldiers open the doors and run inside. It's empty.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – KEY VAULT

Soldiers open the doors and run inside. It's empty.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – ROOM

Soldiers open the doors and run inside. It's empty, but left messy from Steve, Robin, Dustin, and Erica's rushed escape.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Soldiers look at the machine and the area around it. Owens steps down onto the platform in front of the machine, staring at the wall where the Gate has stitched itself up.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Fire rises above the mall. Sirens wail, and a number of fire trucks are parked outside. Firefighters run inside.

FIREFIGHTER: Hey, come on, let's go! Go, go!

Soldiers flank Joyce and Murray, leading them across the carpark. Joyce looks around, breathing heavily. The carpark is filled with soldiers as they go about their business. Ambulances are parked at the edge of the carpark, with paramedics running around to help the injured. A paramedic talks to Mike and Eleven as they sit on the step of the far ambulance. Steve stands nearby. Max and Robin sit on a stretcher across the way, with Max holding an icepack to her face. Lucas stands with them. Nancy and Jonathan sit inside the middle ambulance. Will sits on the step, a blanket around his shoulders. Joyce stops when she sees him, staring at him. Will throws the blanket off and runs towards Joyce. Steve joins Nancy and Jonathan at the ambulance. Will runs up to Joyce, the pair embracing. Joyce holds Will tight, sobbing.

JOYCE: Thank God!

Will sobs. Joyce looks up and spots Eleven, who's now walking around the area and looking around. She has a gauze on her forehead. She stops when she sees Joyce and Will from a distance, staring at Joyce. Joyce sobs, giving a slight shake of her head. Eleven realises what she means, tears welling in her eyes. She sobs, shaking her head.

Cut to black.

THREE MONTHS LATER

News fanfare plays. The 'CUTTING EDGE' logo video plays. A news story on Hawkins begins. It shows footage of people having fun.

MALE REPORTER: Welcome to Hawkins, Indiana, a wonderful place to grow up, to raise your family, to walk your dog. But then...

The footage changes to footage of the end of the mall fire, with mainly smoke going up in the morning air. The helicopters and ambulances from the previous night are gone, replaced with police cars and officers that keep people back.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): On July Fourth, everything changed. A terrible tragedy struck this small town.

The footage changes to an image of a Journal Tribune article, with the headline reading 'SCANDAL ROCKS SMALL TOWN'. It changes to an image of an Indianapolis Gazette article, with the headline reading 'THIRTY DEAD'. A smaller article in the image has a photo of Hopper, and a sub-headline reading 'Hero Chief dies in fire'.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): But this was not this small town's first brush with tragedy.

The footage changes to an image of an Indiana Chronicle article, with the headline reading 'CITIZENS DEMAND JUSTICE!'.

The footage changes to a split screen with a rip down the middle. On the left is a photo of Bob at work, a small image down the bottom reading 'RADIO SHACK EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH'. On the right is a photo of Barb.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): Mysterious deaths...

The footage changes to an image of a newspaper article, with part of the headline reading 'CORRUPTION', and part of the sub-headline reading 'After Alleged Cover Up'.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): Government cover-ups...

The image zooms out to show that the article belongs to the Indiana Chronicle, the full headline reading 'GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION – Small Town Reeling After Alleged Cover Up'.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): A bizarre chemical leak.

The footage changes to footage of water being pumped out of a pipe and into a river, with the words 'CHEMICAL LEAK!' plastered on top in a green dripping font.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): Is it all linked?

The footage changes to footage of the outside of Hawkins Lab.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): All a vast conspiracy?

The words 'CONSPIRACY' are suddenly plastered on the footage in red words. The footage changes to an image of a Journal Tribune article, with the headline reading 'Hawkins makes headlines around the nation – MAYOR UNDER FIRE!' Below the headline is a photo of Kline being led out of a building by police officers.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): The fault of a disgraced, corrupt mayor?

The footage changes to footage of Kline being led out of a building by police officers. Reporters try to interview him but are held back by other officers.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): Or is something more going on in the heartland?

The camera zooms in on Kline as he stares at it. The footage changes to footage of the 'WELCOME TO HAWKINS' sign. The word 'HELL' has been spraypainted over the word 'HAWKINS' in red.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): Can a town itself be cursed?

The camera zooms in on the sign, and a recording of a woman screaming plays. The footage changes to footage of a bunch of D&D books.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): Some believe a rise in Satanism is to blame.

A recording of cackling laughter plays.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): To find out...

The 'CUTTING EDGE' logo video plays.

MALE REPORTER (CONT'D): Tune in tonight at 7pm for 'Horror in the Heartland' on Cutting Edge.

EXT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

Steve's car pulls up and parks, and he and Robin get out. Robin looks at Steve's resume.

ROBIN: You put your mum down as a reference?

STEVE: Yeah.

Steve and Robin close the doors and start walking to the store.

STEVE (CONT'D): Why not? She's, like, super well-respected.

Steve opens the door to the store. Robin swings around a pole.

ROBIN: You're such a dingus.

Robin walks inside.

STEVE: Wha-

Steve runs in after Robin.

ROBIN (O.S.): Uh, just to be clear, we weren't fired, you know.

INT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

Steve and Robin stand at the counter. Keith sits behind the counter, reading through their resumes as he holds them in front of his face.

ROBIN (CONT'D): The mall burned down and, like, killed a bunch of people.

Keith lowers the resumes to look at Robin.

KEITH: Thanks for sharing. Didn't know.

Keith throws the resumes down on the counter.

KEITH (CONT'D): Three favourite movies. Go.

Keith points at Robin.

ROBIN: Uh...The Apartment, Hidden Fortress, Children of Paradise.

KEITH: You, go.

Keith points at Steve.

STEVE: Favourite movies?

KEITH: Did I stutter?

STEVE: Uh...Animal House, for sure.

Robin scoffs, rolling her eyes. Steve looks down.

STEVE (CONT'D): Um...

Keith clicks in Steve's face, pointing at his own eyes.

KEITH: Eyes on me, Harrington.

STEVE: Yeah.

Steve reluctantly looks at Keith.

STEVE (CONT'D): Uh...Star Wars.

KEITH: A New Hope?

STEVE: A new what-now?

KEITH: Which Star Wars?

STEVE: The one with the teddy bears. Duh.

Steve squeals like an Ewok. He looks at Robin, who hangs her head.

STEVE (CONT'D): No? Uh...oh, the one that just came out. The movie that just came out. The one with the DeLorean and Alex P Keaton, and he's trying to bang his mum.

Steve chuckles. Keith looks at him with an uncomfortable expression. Robin looks as though she's questioning how she's friends with him.

STEVE (CONT'D): The time...yeah, those are my top three. Classics.

Keith looks at Robin, pointing at her.

KEITH: You start Monday.

Robin nods. Keith looks at Steve and points at him.

KEITH (CONT'D): You start never.

Steve looks slightly sad. He looks at Robin, then looks down. Robin leans against his shoulder.

ROBIN: Will you just, um...will you give us a minute?

STEVE: Why?

ROBIN: Steve.

Steve looks at Keith, who makes a face at him. Steve reluctantly backs up and walks away. Robin leans forward, scoffing slightly.

ROBIN (CONT'D): All right, you have to understand, Keith, I know his taste is a bit pedestrian, but the dingus has other qualities.

KEITH: He's a douchebag of the highest order, Robin.

ROBIN: He was a bit of a prick to us in high school, I'll grant you that, but he remains...a total chick magnet.

KEITH: Yeah, okay, and this is relevant to me how?

ROBIN: Uh, Earth to Keith. The ladies will come in just to see him. They'll come in in droves. Doves, Keith. We sold so much ice cream, they had to get a second shipment in from Michigan. Goddamn Michigan, Keith. And these ladies...these ladies are hot. They're so very hot. And there are too many of them for little Steve. He needs assistance. He needs your assistance, Keith.

Keith eats a cheese puff.

KEITH: What's in it for you? You got a thing for him or something?

During his wandering, Steve runs into a cutout of Phoebe Cates in Fast Times at Ridgemont High. The noise makes Robin and Keith look at him. He stumbles to catch it, resume in his mouth.

STEVE: Shit! Goddammit. This is-

Steve struggles to fix the stand on the cutout.

STEVE (CONT'D): Hmm.

Steve struggles to fix the stand on the cutout. Robin turns back to Keith.

ROBIN: We're just, um...we're just friends.

Steve seems to realise what the cutout is of.

STEVE: Oh!

Steve holds the cutout, showing it to Robin and Keith.

STEVE (CONT'D): Fast Times. Fast Times. Ever heard of it? Top three for me, Keith.

Robin chuckles.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Jonathan and Nancy work together to carry a mattress out of the house, with Jonathan walking backwards. Nancy walks a bit too fast.

JONATHAN: Whoa, whoa, whoa! Slow down.

NANCY: Sorry. Sorry.

The pair walks down the steps.

NANCY (CONT'D): Still got it?

JONATHAN: Yeah, yeah.

The pair carry the mattress into the large U-Haul truck parked outside. At the front of the yard, a FOR SALE sign is stabbed into the ground. It's marked SOLD.

MAX and LUCAS (O.S.): (singing) Turn around...look at what you see...

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Boxes are stacked in the lounge room. The camera pans over them.

MAX and LUCAS (CONT'D)(O.S.): (singing) In her face...the mirror of your dreams...

Max and Lucas sit on the ground.

MAX and LUCAS (CONT'D): (singing) Rhymes that keep their secrets...

They couple sing to Dustin, who stares at them with disdain from his place on the dining room floor.

MAX and LUCAS (CONT'D): (singing) Will unfold behind the clouds...

Dustin is not impressed.

MAX: Wait, did we get that verse right? It's 'unfold behind the clouds'?

DUSTIN: Yeah, but you're butchering it, so could you please stop?

LUCAS: So then join in, Dusty-bun.

Lucas blows a kiss. Dustin puts a tea towel in the box in front of him.

MAX: Yeah, come on, Dusty-bun, why don't you join us?

DUSTIN: You guys are so funny, you should be on Carson.

MAX: Can't we just hear your rendition?

DUSTIN: No.

MAX: Please? Just one verse?

DUSTIN: No. No way. It's reserved for Suzie's ears and Suzie's ears alone.

Max and Lucas look at each other.

MAX and LUCAS: (singing) Turn around...look at what you see...

Dustin holds up a middle finger. Lucas claps.

MAX and LUCAS (CONT'D): (singing) In their face...

Dustin waves his middle finger around.

MAX and LUCAS (CONT'D): (singing) The mirror of your dreams...

The camera pans away from the lounge room and into the hallway.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – HALLWAY – DAY

Will walks down the hallway towards the kitchen, carrying a bunch of books.

DUSTIN (O.S.): Shut up, you guys.

MAX and LUCAS (O.S.): (singing) Rhymes that keep their secrets...

DUSTIN (O.S.): Stop! You guys, please, shut up.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

Will puts the books inside a box. His D&D book sits at the top of the pile. Mike stares at him as he puts the books inside and starts to walk away.

MIKE: Whoa, dude.

Will stops and walks back.

MIKE (CONT'D): That's the donation box.

WILL: I know. I'll just use yours when I come back. I mean, if we still wanna play.

MIKE: Yeah, but what if you want to join another party?

Will shakes his head, smiling.

WILL: Not possible.

Mike chuckles, smiling. Will walks away.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – JONATHAN'S ROOM – DAY

It's empty. Jonathan and Nancy walk down the hallway and stop outside. Jonathan leans on the door frame, sighing.

NANCY: Is that...

Nancy leans on the other side of the door frame.

NANCY (CONT'D): Everything?

Jonathan gives a small nod.

JONATHAN: I guess so.

Jonathan looks around before pushing off the door frame with a sigh, walking into the room. He stands in the middle of the room, facing away from the door with his hands on his hips.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Seventeen years of my life...packed up in one day.

Nancy pushes off the door frame and walks over to Jonathan, slipping her arms through his to hug his waist. She rests her head on his back, not quite tall enough to put her chin on his shoulder.

Jonathan takes his hands off his waist and rests his arms over Nancy's.

NANCY: What if I just...don't let you go?

Jonathan starts shifting his weight to sway him and Nancy.

JONATHAN: I think...

Jonathan turns around, holding Nancy's hands.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): The new owners might kick us out.

Nancy steps closer to Jonathan, their hands still intertwined.

NANCY: You could stay in our basement.

JONATHAN: Your dad'd love that.

NANCY: We could hide you in a tent, like El.

Jonathan stares at Nancy. She avoids his gaze, dropping her head.

JONATHAN: Hey.

Nancy nods with a sigh. Jonathan puts his forehead on hers.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): It's gonna be okay.

Nancy tries not to cry. Jonathan sighs. He lifts Nancy's hand, turning it to look at the scar on her palm. He rubs his thumb over it.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): As a wise man once said...we've got shared trauma.

NANCY: So what's a little more, right?

Jonathan chuckles. Nancy looks at Jonathan. He kisses her hand. They both have tears welling in their eyes.

JONATHAN: What's a little more?

Jonathan chuckles softly, a sad smile on his face. He kisses Nancy, before he breaks away and hugs her tightly.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – WILL'S ROOM – DAY

Eleven pulls a shirt out of the wardrobe, taking it off the hanger to fold it and pack it away before putting the hanger back. She looks to make sure she's gotten everything, spotting a teddy bear on the top shelf. She reaches for it, straining on her tiptoes and using the wardrobe door for support, but it's too far back. She sighs, stepping back and putting her hands on her hips. She takes a few breaths and holds her hand out, attempting to use her powers to get it down. After a few moments of trying she drops her hand, panting. It didn't work.

MIKE (O.S.): They'll come back.

Eleven looks to see Mike walking into the room.

MIKE (CONT'D): I know they will.

Mike walks up to the wardrobe and gets the teddy bear down, handing it to Eleven. She hugs it.

ELEVEN: Thanks.

MIKE: You packed your walkie, right?

ELEVEN: Yes.

MIKE: Because you know that I'm gonna steal Cerebro from Dustin and call you so much, you're gonna have to turn it off, right?

Mike and Eleven chuckle.

ELEVEN: Did you talk to your mum? About Thanksgiving?

MIKE: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I got the okay. I'll be there.

Eleven smiles.

MIKE (CONT'D): And then I was thinking maybe you could come up here for Christmas. And Will, too. You can come before or after Christmas, or whatever Mrs. Byers wants, but I was thinking Christmas Day could be super fun, because we'd all have cool new presents to play with and, uh...

Mike chuckles.

MIKE (CONT'D): Sorry, that made me sound like a seven-year-old.

Eleven shrugs slightly.

ELEVEN: I like presents, too.

MIKE: Yeah, cool. Yeah. I like...I like presents, too.

ELEVEN: Cool.

Eleven walks past Mike, her smile fading. She looks slightly confused. Mike shuts his eyes, shaking his head. Eleven squeezes her eyes shut briefly before she turns around.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Mike?

Mike turns around.

MIKE: Yeah?

Eleven sighs.

ELEVEN: Remember that day...at the cabin, you were talking to Max?

MIKE: Um...I don't think I follow.

ELEVEN: You talked about your...your feelings, your heart.

MIKE: Oh. Oh, yeah, that. Man, that was so long ago. Um...

Mike rubs the back of his neck, uncomfortable.

MIKE (CONT'D): That was really heat of the moment stuff, and we were arguing and...I don't really remember...what did I say, exactly?

ELEVEN: Mike...

Eleven walks towards Mike, who stares at her in confusion. She puts her hand on his cheek.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I love you, too.

Eleven kisses Mike. He stands there, confused. When she pulls away, she gives him a small smile. She turns and walks away, looking a little proud of herself. Mike is frozen, shocked.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – JOYCE'S ROOM – DAY

Joyce packs some clothes into a box labelled 'HOPPER'. She grabs his police shirt from the pile next to her, looking at it with a sad expression. She folds it, ready to put it in the box, but feels something in the breast pocket. She reaches into the pocket with a confused expression, pulling out a piece of paper before putting the shirt down. Joyce unfolds it and finds that it's the letter he wrote to help

him chat with Mike and Eleven. She clicks her tongue, sighing. Eleven rounds the corner and stands in the doorway, holding the teddy bear.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Donation box?

Joyce looks at Eleven.

JOYCE: Uh, yeah, sure.

Joyce clears her throat. Eleven spots the paper in her hands.

ELEVEN: What is that?

Joyce looks at the paper.

JOYCE: Uh...

Joyce looks at Eleven.

JOYCE (CONT'D): It's...it's, the speech Hop wrote for you and Mike.

ELEVEN: Speech?

JOYCE: Yeah. You know, the heart-to-heart.

Eleven looks confused. She glances at the paper before looking at Joyce.

JOYCE (CONT'D): He never talked to you, did he?

Eleven shakes her head. Joyce scoffs, looking down.

ELEVEN: Can I read?

Joyce looks at her.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – WILL'S ROOM – DAY

Eleven lays on the floor, note in hand, propping herself up with her elbows. She unfolds the note.

HOPPER (O.S.): "There's something I've been wanting to talk to you both about. I know this is a difficult conversation, but I care about you both very much."

FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Hopper paces the room, practicing the heart-to-heart speech.

HOPPER (CONT'D): "And I know that you care about each other very much. And that's why it's important to that we set boundaries moving forward, so we can build an environment..."

Hopper stops pacing and sighs.

HOPPER (CONT'D): "Where we all feel...comfortable...trusted..."

Hopper leans his back against one of the supports.

HOPPER (CONT'D): "And open...to sharing our feelings."

Hopper pauses.

HOPPER (CONT'D): *Feelings.*

Hopper grabs his pen from his breast pocket.

FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Hopper sits down at the dining room table, staring at the paper in front of him.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Feelings.

Hopper starts writing.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Jesus.

Hopper chuckles.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Nancy, Max, Mike, Lucas, and Dustin say goodbye to Jonathan, Joyce, Will, and Eleven. Jonathan leans against his car. Joyce and Nancy share a hug. Will and Max share a hug.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): The truth is...

Will and Mike share a hug. Eleven runs up to Max and they hug tightly.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): For so long, I'd forgotten what those even were.

Will then hugs Lucas, squeezing him tightly and crying. Joyce hugs Dustin.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): I've been stuck in one place...

Eleven hugs Dustin. Will leans against Jonathan's car.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): In a cave, you might say.

Lucas joins Will, Mike, and Dustin in leaning against Jonathan's car.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): A deep, dark cave.

Mike hugs Eleven. Max joins them in leaning against Jonathan's car.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): And then, I left some Eggos out in the woods...

Joyce watches the goodbyes from her place leaning against the U-Haul truck.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): And you came into my life and...

Will hugs Dustin. Joyce turns and walks to the front of the U-Haul truck. Mike and Eleven hold each other tightly, foreheads pressed together as they try not to cry.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): For the first time in a long time...

Jonathan takes Nancy's hand.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): I started to feel things again.

Jonathan and Nancy press their foreheads together. When they pull them apart, Jonathan puts his hands on Nancy's cheeks.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): I started to feel happy.

Eleven stands on her own, looking at the ground. She shakes from a sob.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Nancy, Mike, Dustin, Lucas, and Max watch the U-Haul truck drive off, towing Joyce's car. Jonathan drives off after it. They look sad.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): But, lately, I guess I've been feeling...distant from you. Like you're...you're pulling away from me or something.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Light streams through the hole in the ceiling. Board games are resting on the floor, partially trapped by the knocked over bookshelf.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): I miss playing board games every night...

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – KITCHEN – DAY

One side of the curtain rod has fallen down, the curtain piling onto the plates in the sink.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Making triple-decker Eggo extravaganzas at sunrise...

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Light streams through the hole in the ceiling. Leaves litter the floor.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Watching westerns together before we doze off.

INT. U-HAUL TRUCK

Eleven looks out the window, cheeks stained with tears.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): But I know you're getting older.

Joyce stares forward as she drives.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Growing.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Dustin, Max, Lucas, and Mike stand on their bikes. Dustin, Max, and Lucas bike off.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Changing. And I guess...

Mike turns to look at the Byers house.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): If I'm being really honest, that's what scares me.

Mike turns and bikes after the others.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): I don't want things to change.

INT. JONATHAN'S CAR

Will stares out the window, crying. Jonathan glances at him before looking forward.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – FOYER – DAY

Mike walks inside and pauses next to the staircase. He looks to be in shock. He looks at Karen.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): And, so, I think maybe that's why I came in here...

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

Karen chops up some veggies. She looks at Mike with a smile, which fades when she sees his expression.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): To try and maybe...stop that change.

Karen sets the knife down and walks towards Mike.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): To turn back the clock.

Karen and Mike share a hug.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): To make things go back to how they were.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

Hopper sighs deeply. The U-Haul truck drives past the 'LEAVING HAWKINS – COME AGAIN SOON' sign.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): But I know that's naïve. It's just...

Jonathan's car drives past the 'LEAVING HAWKINS – COME AGAIN SOON' sign.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Not how life works. It's moving.

INT. U-HAUL TRUCK

Eleven looks out the window. She looks sad but accepting, ready for the next chapter of her life.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Always moving, whether you like it or not.

INT. HARGROVE HOUSE – MAX'S ROOM – DAY

Max sits on the edge of her bed. She sighs.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): And, yeah, sometimes it's painful. Sometimes it's sad.

INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE – HALLWAY – DAY

Erica opens her door to find Dustin and Lucas outside. Dustin holds a box labelled 'DONATIONS'. Lucas waves his hand to Dustin and he steps forwards, kneeling on one knee and presenting the box to Erica.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): And sometimes...it's surprising. Happy.

INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE – ERICA'S BEDROOM – DAY

Erica puts the box on her bed and opens it, finding Will's D&D book at the top. She picks it up, smiling.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): So, you know what? Keep on growing up, kid. Don't let me stop you.

FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Hopper sits at the dining room table, writing the letter.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Make mistakes, learn from 'em, and when life hurts you, because it will...

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – WILL'S ROOM – DAY

Eleven lies on the carpet, reading the note.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Remember the hurt. The hurt is good. It means you're out of that cave.

FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Hopper sits at the dining room table, writing the letter.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): But, please, if you don't mind, for the sake of your poor old dad...

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – WILL'S ROOM – DAY

Eleven lies on the carpet, reading the note.

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Keep the door open three inches.

Eleven laughs. She sniffles, sobbing.

FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Hopper sits the pen down.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – WILL'S ROOM – DAY

Eleven lies on the carpet, reading the note.

There's knocking on the door. Eleven looks up to see Joyce standing in the doorway.

JOYCE: Are you okay?

Eleven nods, crying. She wipes a tear away, folding the note up.

ELEVEN: (choked) Yeah.

Eleven sniffles, wiping her tears.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Time to go?

Joyce nods.

JOYCE: Yeah.

Eleven sniffles.

ELEVEN: I'll be out in a minute.

JOYCE: Okay.

Eleven lets out an exhale. She holds the note tightly in her hands, nodding. She sniffles and pushes herself to her knees, holding the note tightly. She puts it in her breast pocket before taking a deep breath.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Will, Mike, and Eleven walk out carrying boxes, heading to the U-Haul truck. Jonathan stands inside, grabbing boxes as they're handed to him and packing them away. Lucas, Dustin, Max, and Nancy watch. Eleven hands Jonathan her box and he puts it away, before he reaches up and grabs the rope for the door. Jonathan steps down, pulling the door with him, before he closes and locks it.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Joyce walks towards the door. She pauses in the doorway, turning around and staring at the house she'd lived in for so many years. A house that had been with them through the events of Will's disappearance, the Demogorgon attack, the Demodog attack, and so much more. A home. She takes a deep breath and closes the door. The camera lingers on a wide shot of the lounge room, with the front door being the focus point.

Cut to black.

END CREDITS.

Snow appears behind the credits, and wind howls. A large prison

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – NIGHT

Kamchatka comes into view, snow whipping in the air and covering the ground. Wind howls. Lights on buildings provide the only light in the dark night.

KAMCHATKA, RUSSIA

EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – NIGHT

A soldier opens a gated door and walks into the hallway, followed by another soldier. Cells line the walls. The first soldier goes to open a cell, but the second soldier motions against it.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER: (in Russian) No. Not the American.

The second soldier motions to the neighbouring cell. The two soldiers walk over, with the first soldier unlocking the cell. The prisoner inside retreats.

PRISONER: (in Russian) No, I'm begging you...No! Don't!

The soldiers make their way into the cell and grab the prisoner, struggling with him.

PRISONER (CONT'D): (in Russian) No! Please! No! Don't!

The soldiers drag the prisoner out of the cell and down the hallway, away from the gated door they came in from. The prisoner struggles greatly, but the soldiers are stronger.

PRISONER (CONT'D): (in Russian) No, don't! Don't do this!

The soldiers drag the prisoner along.

PRISONER (CONT'D): (in Russian) Let me go!

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – LARGE STAIRWELL – NIGHT

The soldiers drag the prisoner down the stairs.

PRISONER (CONT'D): (in Russian) Let me go!

The prisoner yells as he's dragged down the stairs.

INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – DEMOGORGON CAGE – NIGHT

The soldiers throw the prisoner inside and back out of the room, closing and locking the gated door behind them. The prisoner gets to his feet and runs to the door, slipping slightly on the liquid that sits on the floor. He shakes the door. The first soldier walks away.

PRISONER (CONT'D): (in Russian) Don't leave me in here.

The second soldier rounds the corner on the gate, moving away from the door. The prisoner follows him from inside.

PRISONER (CONT'D): (in Russian) Let me out, I'm innocent. I'm innocent! I'm begging you, please!

The second soldier grabs the handle on a wheel and spins it. The prisoner watches, scared. A mechanism on the wall slowly turns with the second soldier's cranking, the metal squealing. The red door on the back wall of the room slowly opens. The prisoner turns around, backing away. The door finishes opening. A Demogorgon slowly steps out, crawling on all fours, snarling with its mouth closed. The prisoner looks terrified, sticking to the gate and trying to back away. The Demogorgon steps towards him, snarling and squealing. Once fully out of its trappings it stands to its full height, chittering. The prisoner slinks down, staring at the Demogorgon in horror as it slowly walks towards him. He screams. The Demogorgon opens its mouth and shrieks, pouncing.

CUT TO TITLE CARD. STRANGER THINGS 3.

END EPISODE.

END SEASON THREE.